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UNCLAS HARARE 001912

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR AF/PD, AF/S, AF/RA
NSC FOR JENDAYI FRAZER
LONDON FOR GURNEY
PARIS FOR NEARY
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SUBJECT: MEDIA REPORT WSSD; HARARE

- ¶1. Under headline "Powell faces more protests on return to Africa" the August 22 edition of the government-controlled daily "The Herald" carried the following opinion piece by Tim Chigodo on page 11:
- ¶2. "U. S. Secretary of State, Mr. Colin Powell is returning to Africa, a continent he despises. Mr. Powell who is well known for his anti-African views will head the U. S. delegation to the 10-day World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) starting August 26 in place of President George W. Bush who has skipped the meeting. . . Since assuming America's top and powerful foreign post, the Gulf war veteran has made more enemies in Africa than anywhere else in the world. . . He faces more protests on his return. . . The U. S. Secretary of State has never had love for Africa and would therefore be the least expected to say anything positive about the continent and its leaders. . . While Mr. Powell has been criticized as an Uncle Tom, President Mugabe is revered the world over for he has fought colonialism and refuses to be cowed down by super powers. To black people he is symbol of strength. Mr. Powell does not understand Africa that he denigrates and therefore cannot be expected to help the continent solve its many problems. . . ."

SULLIVAN